

and that in only the first two years. The major choice between my amendments and the bill relate to the role of chiropractors in diagnosis. I think we ought to consider for a minute what chiropractors themselves have said about diagnosis. For example, William Harper, the President of the Texas Chiropractic College, said and I quote, "We waste too much time in our curriculum on medical diagnosis". A report by the Consumers Union Magazine said...concluded that chiropractors have little or no knowledge of many diagnostic procedures and consequently overuse or misuse those procedures which they are authorized by statute to use. Let's talk a minute about X-rays. According to Consumers Union Magazine and a study that they published on the average 3% of the individuals who would walk into a physician's office ultimately have an X-ray of one type or another taken. For chiropractors that is 90% which I think is a dangerous use of the X-ray technology that we have in the United States. Besides being an unnecessary expense which you and I all pay for through our health care insurance premiums, it is a hazard because evidence shows that excessive exposure to X-rays increases the likelihood of cataracts, thyroid cancer, leukemia, reproductive cell damage that is linked to genetic defects in offsprings. Physicians and other health care professionals have taken recent very aggressive steps to reduce the use of X-rays. Chiropractors have not. Chiropractors also diagnose and treat mental illness despite a gross lack of training in mental health. Do you know what many chiropractors tell their schizophrenic patients? They tell them to take megavitamins, vitamins which the chiropractors sell to patients. This is done despite the fact that every study on the use of vitamins to treat schizophrenia has shown that that methodology is totally ineffective. Consumers Union Magazine also reports and I quote, "Traditionally chiropractors have believed it wasn't important to name a disease. The important thing was to find and correct the subluxation allegedly causing the disease. It made little difference, for example, if a liver disorder involved congestion, cirrhosis, or cancer." Let's look at the history of chiropractic to determine whether this is a profession which we the Legislature should authorize to act as primary health care practitioners. The literature which is distributed in chiropractic offices amazes me. In fact, I sent an intern from my office to several chiropractic offices in this last week to pick up several examples of that literature and I can share it with you if you would like but the various literature published by the chiropractic indicates that manipulation of the spine can be used to treat or alleviate the following disorders: Bedwetting, high blood pressure, acne, appendicitis,